(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Chartered fishing companies

1327. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some chartered fishing companies which are required to report their catches to Customs, as is the rule, have at various times not done so;

(b) what were the reasons for not taking action by Customs authorities against such companies;

(c) whether it is not possible for the Customs authorities to act directly against them; and

(d) what measures are being taken by Government at present to act against such fishing companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) A few cases of fishing trawlers sailing off without reporting to the base port for customs clearance, in contravention of charter terms and conditions, have come to the notice of the Customs authorities.

(b) The Customs authorities have taken action against such companies under the Customs Act.

(c) and (d) The Customs authorities can take action only for contravention of the Customs provisions. The fishing trawlers allowed to be operated in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture. Movements of such vessels in Exclusive Economic Zone are monitored by the Coast Guard. Such vessels are required to report to the nearest port once in 45 days. The officials of the Ministry of Agriculture are invested with powers to inspect the chartered vessels to ensure compliance of charter terms and conditions. The Customs authorities keep a watch on the activities of chartered fishing vessels as a part of their anti-smuggling vigil and rummage such vessels both on arrival and departure, at ports.

Tea gardens in Assam

1328. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of tea gardens in Assam at present with factories and without factories;

(b) what was the total production of tea from Assam gardens from 1980 to 1985; year-wise; and

(c) what was the total acreage of land under tea plantation in Assam tea gardens during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Total number of tea gardens in Assam during 1984 were 808. Of these 544 owned tea factories.

(b) and (c) Information is given below:—

Year	Production of tea in Assam (Million Kgs.)	Area under tea in Assam (Hectares)
1980	300·70	201,669
1981	305·13	203,038
1982	299·08	211,323
1983	321·65	217,007
1984	338·53*	214,741*
1985	352·54*	Not Available

* Provisional figures.